



June 5, 2009

Acting Chairman Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 09-51

Dear FCC Acting Chairman and Commissioners:

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. To fulfill its mission, OCA has established the following goals: to advocate for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment; to promote civic participation, education, and leadership; to advance coalitions and community building; and to foster cultural heritage. Founded in 1973, OCA organizes over 80 chapters and affiliates from its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In recent years, we have seen how broadband technology has become a powerful tool for civic engagement, educational success, and economic opportunity. As the FCC develops a national broadband plan, we are hopeful that this effort will result in ubiquitous deployment of this next-generation technology. All Americans should have access to the benefits that come with a broadband connection.

Broadband is strongly linked to economic success and job creation. The American Consumer Institute reports that the presence of broadband infrastructure in a community can help to develop online workers which may attract information-based businesses. When broadband technology is available, Americans are able to develop new skills that enable them to participate in the digital economy.

Education and civic engagement are also enhanced by broadband technology. According to the National Council for Online Learning, distance learning is growing at a rate of 30% annually. As people are learning online, they are also using broadband to participate in political activities. Today, people use broadband connections to contact their government, watch videos from political candidates, and get news about federal and local issues. Broadband has changed how we learn and participate in civic life.

As the FCC considers its national broadband plan, we hope that the Commission will not impose regulations that could unnecessarily burden private sector providers and delay broadband deployment to all communities. The private sector currently invests billions of dollars per year to ensure that our communications infrastructure is maintained and built out to new communities. These providers must have incentives to continue this level of investment. We urge the FCC not to hinder further investment, but rather propose solutions that enable public-private cooperation that can deliver broadband to the remaining unserved communities.

OCA knows how a broadband connection enhances opportunities for the Asian Pacific American community, as well as all Americans. The FCC's broadband plan must extend the benefits of these technologies to every home in the country.

Sincerely,

George C. Wu, Esq.
Executive Director